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TITLE: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MOBILE HANDSET PORTABILITY WITHIN TELEMATICS EQUIPPED VEHICLES

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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MOBILE HANDSET PORTABILITY WITHIN TELEMATICS EQUIPPED VEHICLES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to wireless communications with a mobile vehicle. More specifically, the invention relates to a method and system for managing mobile handset portability within telematics equipped vehicles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The opportunity to utilize wireless features in a mobile vehicle is ever increasing as the automobile is being transformed into a communications and entertainment platform as well as a transportation platform. Wireless features include wireless vehicle communication, networking, maintenance and diagnostic services for a mobile vehicle.

Typically, conventional wireless systems within mobile vehicles (e.g. telematics units) provide voice communication. Recently, these wireless systems have been utilized to update systems within telematics units, such as, for example radio station presets. Other systems within mobile vehicles, such as, for example a power train control may be updated as well. Information may also be collected from systems and subsystems within mobile vehicles and provided to a vehicle manufacturer for analysis, such as, for example system usage, component wear, and the like. Unfortunately, updating systems within telematics units only occurs in telematics units registered to a specific user.

The present invention advances the state of the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One aspect of the invention includes a method for operating a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle communication system including assigning a primary telematics unit identifier to a user account, assigning the primary telematics unit identifier to a mobile handset, associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system, and operating the associated telematics unit.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a computer readable medium storing a computer program includes: computer readable code for assigning a primary telematics unit identifier to a user account; computer readable code for assigning the primary telematics unit identifier to a mobile handset; computer readable code for associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system; and computer readable code for operating the associated telematics unit.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the invention, a system for operating a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle is provided. The system includes means for assigning a primary telematics unit identifier to a user account. Means for assigning the primary telematics unit identifier to a mobile handset is provided. Means for associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system and means for operating the associated telematics unit is also provided.

The aforementioned, and other features and advantages of the invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the invention rather than limiting, the scope of the invention being defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates an operating environment for implementing wireless communication within a mobile vehicle communication system;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of telematics based programming gateway in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention,

FIG. 3 illustrates another operating environment for implementing wireless communication within a mobile vehicle communication system;

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of a method of managing mobile handset portability within a telematics equipped mobile vehicle, in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of an embodiment of routing calls to a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle communication system, in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates one embodiment of system for data transmission over a wireless communication system, in accordance with the present invention at **100**. Mobile vehicle communication system (MVCS) **100** includes a mobile vehicle communication unit (MVCU) **110**, a vehicle communication network **112**, a telematics unit **120**, one or more wireless carrier systems **140**, one or more communication networks **142**, one or more land networks **144**, one or more client, personal or user computers **150**, one or more web-hosting portals **160**, and one or more call centers **170**. In one embodiment, MVCU **110** is implemented as a mobile vehicle equipped with suitable hardware and software for transmitting and receiving voice and data communications. MVCS **100** may include additional components not relevant to the present discussion. Mobile vehicle communication systems and telematics units are known in the art.

MVCU **110** may also be referred to as a mobile vehicle throughout the discussion below. In operation, MVCU **110** may be implemented as a motor vehicle, a marine vehicle, or as an aircraft. MVCU **110** may include additional components not relevant to the present discussion.

MVCU **110**, via a vehicle communication network **112**, sends signals to various units of equipment and systems (detailed below) within MVCU **110** to perform various functions such as unlocking a door, opening the trunk, setting personal comfort settings, and calling from telematics unit **120**. In facilitating interactions among the various communication and electronic modules, vehicle communication network **112** utilizes network interfaces such as controller-area network (CAN), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard 9141, ISO Standard 11898 for high-speed applications, ISO Standard 11519 for lower speed applications, and Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Standard J1850 for high-speed and lower speed applications.

MVCU **110**, via telematics unit **120**, sends and receives radio transmissions from wireless carrier system **140**. Wireless carrier system **140** is implemented as any suitable system for transmitting a signal from MVCU **110** to communication network **142**.

Telematics unit **120** includes a digital signal processor (DSP) **122** connected to a wireless modem **124**, a global positioning system (GPS) unit **126**, an in-vehicle memory **128**, a microphone **130**, one or more speakers **132**, and an embedded or in-vehicle mobile phone **134**. In other embodiments, telematics unit **120** may be implemented without one or more of the above listed components, such as, for example GPS unit **126** or speakers **132**. Telematics unit **120** may include additional components not relevant to the present discussion.

In one embodiment, DSP **122** is implemented as a microcontroller, controller, host processor, or vehicle communications processor. In an example, DSP **122** is implemented as an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). In another embodiment, DSP **122** is implemented as a processor working in conjunction with a central processing unit (CPU) performing the function of a general purpose processor. GPS unit **126** provides longitude and latitude coordinates of the vehicle responsive to a GPS broadcast signal received from one or more GPS satellite broadcast systems (not shown). In-vehicle mobile phone **134** is a cellular-type phone, such as, for example an analog, digital, dual-mode, dual-band, multi-mode or multi-band cellular phone. In another embodiment, in-vehicle mobile phone **134** is implemented as a mobile handset (detailed in **FIG. 2** below), such as, for example a digital handset.

DSP **122** executes various computer programs that control programming and operational modes of electronic and mechanical systems within MVCU **110**. DSP **122** controls communications (e.g. call signals) between telematics unit **120**, wireless carrier system **140**, and call center **170**. In one embodiment, a voice-recognition application is installed in DSP **122** that can translate human voice input through microphone **130** to digital signals. DSP **122** generates and accepts digital signals transmitted between telematics unit **120** and a vehicle communication network **112** that is connected to various electronic modules in the vehicle. In one embodiment, these digital signals activate the programming mode and operation modes, as well as provide for data transfers. In this embodiment, signals from DSP **122** are translated into voice messages and sent out through speaker **132**.

Communication network **142** includes services from one or more mobile telephone switching offices and wireless networks. Communication network **142** connects wireless carrier system **140** to land network **144**. Communication network **142** is implemented as any suitable system or collection of systems for connecting wireless carrier system **140** to MVCU **110** and land network **144**.

Land network **144** connects communication network **142** to client computer **150**, web-hosting portal **160**, and call center **170**. In one embodiment, land network **144** is a public-switched telephone network (PSTN). In another embodiment, land network **144** is implemented as an Internet protocol (IP) network. In other embodiments, land network **144** is implemented as a wired network, an optical network, a fiber network, other wireless networks, or any combination thereof. Land network **144** is connected to one or more landline telephones. Communication network **142** and land network **144** connect wireless carrier system **140** to web-hosting portal **160** and call center **170**.

Client, personal or user computer **150** includes a computer usable medium to execute Internet browser and Internet-access computer programs for sending and receiving data over land network **144** and optionally, wired or wireless communication networks **142** to web-hosting portal **160**. Personal or client computer **150** sends user preferences to web-hosting portal through a web-page interface using communication standards such as hypertext transport protocol (HTTP), and transport-control protocol and Internet protocol (TCP/IP). In one embodiment, the data includes directives to change certain programming and operational modes of electronic and mechanical systems within MVCU **110**. In operation, a client utilizes computer **150** to initiate setting or re-setting of user-preferences for MVCU **110**. User-preference data from client-side software is transmitted to server-side software of web-hosting portal **160**. User-preference data is stored at web-hosting portal **160**.

Web-hosting portal **160** includes one or more data modems **162**, one or more web servers **164**, one or more databases **166**, and a network system **168**. Web-hosting portal **160** is connected directly by wire to call center **170**, or connected by phone lines to land network **144**, which is connected to call center **170**. In an example, web-hosting portal **160** is connected to call center **170** utilizing an IP network. In this example, both components, web-hosting portal **160** and call center **170**, are connected to land network **144** utilizing the IP

network. In another example, web-hosting portal **160** is connected to land network **144** by one or more data modems **162**. Land network **144** sends digital data to and from modem **162**, data that is then transferred to web server **164**. Modem **162** may reside inside web server **164**. Land network **144** transmits data communications between web-hosting portal **160** and call center **170**.

Web server **164** receives user-preference data from user computer **150** via land network **144**. In alternative embodiments, computer **150** includes a wireless modem to send data to web-hosting portal **160** through a wireless communication network **142** and a land network **144**. Data is received by land network **144** and sent to one or more web servers **164**. In one embodiment, web server **164** is implemented as any suitable hardware and software capable of providing web services to help change and transmit personal preference settings from a client at computer **150** to telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110**. Web server **164** sends to or receives from one or more databases **166** data transmissions via network system **168**. Web server **164** includes computer applications and files for managing and storing personalization settings supplied by the client, such as door lock/unlock behavior, radio station preset selections, climate controls, custom button configurations and theft alarm settings. For each client, the web server potentially stores hundreds of preferences for wireless vehicle communication, networking, maintenance and diagnostic services for a mobile vehicle.

In one embodiment, one or more web servers **164** are networked via network system **168** to distribute user-preference data among its network components such as database **166**. In an example, database **166** is a part of or a separate computer from web server **164**. Web server **164** sends data transmissions with user preferences to call center **170** through land network **144**.

Call center **170** is a location where many calls are received and serviced at the same time, or where many calls are sent at the same time. In one embodiment, the call center is a telematics call center, facilitating communications to and from telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110**. In an example, the call center is a voice call center, providing verbal communications between an advisor in the call center and a subscriber in a mobile vehicle. In another example, the call center contains each of these functions. In other embodiments, call center **170** and web-hosting portal **160** are located in the same or different facilities.

Call center **170** contains one or more voice and data switches **172**, one or more communication services managers **174**, one or more communication services databases **176**, one or more communication services advisors **178**, and one or more network systems **180**.

Switch **172** of call center **170** connects to land network **144**. Switch **172** transmits voice or data transmissions from call center **170**, and receives voice or data transmissions from telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110** through wireless carrier system **140**, communication network **142**, and land network **144**. Switch **172** receives data transmissions from and sends data transmissions to one or more web-hosting portals **160**. Switch **172** receives data transmissions from or sends data transmissions to one or more communication services managers **174** via one or more network systems **180**.

Communication services manager **174** is any suitable hardware and software capable of providing requested communication services to telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110**. Communication services manager **174** sends to or receives from one or more communication services databases **176** data transmissions via network system **180**. Communication services manager **174** sends to or receives from one or more communication services advisors **178** data transmissions via network system **180**. Communication services database

176 sends to or receives from communication services advisor **178** data transmissions via network system **180**. Communication services advisor **178** receives from or sends to switch **172** voice or data transmissions.

Communication services manager **174** provides one or more of a variety of services, including enrollment services, navigation assistance, directory assistance, roadside assistance, business or residential assistance, information services assistance, emergency assistance, and communications assistance. Communication services manager **174** receives service-preference requests for a variety of services from the client via computer **150**, web-hosting portal **160**, and land network **144**. Communication services manager **174** transmits user-preference and other data to telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110** through wireless carrier system **140**, communication network **142**, land network **144**, voice and data switch **172**, and network system **180**. Communication services manager **174** stores or retrieves data and information from communication services database **176**. Communication services manager **174** may provide requested information to communication services advisor **178**.

In one embodiment, communication services advisor **178** is implemented as a real advisor. In an example, a real advisor is a human being in verbal communication with a user or subscriber (e.g. a client) in MVCU **110** via telematics unit **120**. In another embodiment, communication services advisor **178** is implemented as a virtual advisor. In an example, a virtual advisor is implemented as a synthesized voice interface responding to requests from telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110**.

Communication services advisor **178** provides services to telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110**. Services provided by communication services advisor **178** include enrollment services, navigation assistance, real-time traffic advisories, directory assistance, roadside assistance, business or residential assistance, information services assistance, emergency assistance, and communications assistance. Communication services advisor **178** communicate with telematics unit **120** in MVCU **110** through wireless carrier system **140**, communication network **142**, and land network **144** using voice transmissions, or through communication services manager **174** and switch **172** using data transmissions. Switch **172** selects between voice transmissions and data transmissions.

In operation, an incoming call is routed to telematics unit **120** within mobile vehicle **110** from call center **170**. In one embodiment, the call is routed to telematics unit **120** from call center **170** via land network **144**, communication network **142**, and wireless carrier system **140**.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a telematics based programming gateway in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. **FIG. 2** shows a telematics based programming gateway system **200** for managing telematics services within a telematics equipped mobile vehicle. In **FIG. 2**, the programming gateway system includes a mobile vehicle **210** having a telematics unit **220** coupled to mobile handset **290**, and a communication network **270**, such as, for example a public switched telephone network (PSTN). Telematics unit **220** further includes a database **228** that contains programs **231**, stored data **232**, updated data **233** and triggers **234**. Mobile handset **290** further includes a program **291** and stored data **292**. In **FIG. 2**, the elements are presented for illustrative purposes and are not intended to be limiting. Telematics based programming gateway system **200** may include additional components not relevant to the present discussion.

As used herein, the term "coupled" means that the "coupled" elements are able to communicate. The term includes both direct wired connections, as known in the art, as well as wireless connections, such as communications using 802.11 enabled-devices and communications using Bluetooth enabled devices. Other wireless communications systems are also anticipated, and are included within the scope of this disclosure.

Telematics unit **220** is any telematics device enabled for operation with a telematics service provider, such as, for example telematics unit **120** as described with reference to **FIG. 1**. Telematics unit **220** in mobile vehicle **210** is in communication with communication network **270** (e.g. a "PSTN"). Telematics unit **220** includes volatile and non-volatile memory components for storing data and programs. In one embodiment, memory components in telematics unit **220** contain database **228**.

Database **228** includes one or more programs **231** for operating telematics unit **220**, such as, for example associating a mobile handset with telematics unit **220** within a mobile vehicle **210**. In an example, program module **231** receives a signal that mobile handset **290** is coupled to the telematics unit at updated data **233**. In this example, the signal that the mobile handset **290** is coupled to the telematics unit **220** is cached within updated data **233**. The program to associate mobile handset **290** with telematics unit **220** is stored at stored data **232** for use by programs **231**. Stored data **232** additionally includes a telematics unit identifier, such as, for example mobile identification number as is known in the art.

Mobile handset **290** is any mobile handset having software and hardware components that allow functioning of a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle, such as, for example in-vehicle mobile phone **134** as described with reference to **FIG. 1**. In another example, mobile handset **290** is implemented as a digital handset as is known in the art. In one embodiment, mobile handset **290** is interfaced directly to telematics unit **220**. In another embodiment, mobile handset **290** is coupled to telematics unit **220**, such as, for example by a cable. Mobile handset **290** includes a telematics unit identifier that identifies mobile handset **290** to telematics unit **220** and communication network **270**.

Mobile handset **290** contains one or more processors, one or more memory devices and one or more connection ports. In one embodiment, mobile handset **290** includes a software switch for scanning received information, such as, for example a signal that mobile handset **290** is coupled to telematics unit **220**. Mobile handset **290** includes one or more programs **291** and stored data **292** stored in memory. In one embodiment, program **291** includes software for receiving a signal that mobile handset **290** is coupled to telematics unit **220** and storing the received signal at stored data **292**.

In operation, associating mobile handset **290** with telematics unit **220** within a mobile vehicle **210** includes determining that mobile handset **290** is coupled to telematics unit **220**, communicating the telematics unit identifier of the mobile handset to communication network **270**, such as, for example a service provider, and downloading user preferences from the service provider. In one embodiment, associating mobile handset **290** with telematics unit **220** within a mobile vehicle **210** further includes implementing the downloaded user preferences. In another embodiment, downloading user preferences from the service provider includes determining the user preferences at the service provider and receiving the user preferences from the service provider.

In yet another embodiment, the user preferences are based on a user account associated with the communicated telematics unit identifier. In another embodiment, the user preferences are based on a user account associated with the communicated telematics unit identifier and a mobile vehicle type, such as, for example vehicle make, model, year, and the like. Examples of user preferences include seat position preference, a mirror position preference, a door lock behavior preference, a radio station preset selection preference, a climate setting preference, a button configuration preference, and a theft alarm setting preference, as well as other preferences and user options in an ever-increasing list of telematics and vehicle services.

The present invention allows the mobile handset to associate with any one of a plurality of telematics equipped mobile vehicles (e.g. a user's primary vehicle, a user's secondary vehicle, a compatible rental vehicle) and provide relevant user preferences to the telematics unit for implementation within the mobile vehicle as well as subscribed telematic services.

FIG. 3 illustrates another embodiment of system for data transmission over a wireless communication system, in accordance with the present invention at **300**. Mobile vehicle communication system (MVCS) **300** includes a mobile vehicle communication units (MVCUs) **310** and **320**, associated telematics units **315** and **325**, one or more wireless carrier systems **330**, one or more communication networks **350**, one or more land networks **360**, and one or more call centers **370**. Telematics unit **325** additionally includes mobile handset **327**. In one embodiment, MVCUs **310** and **320** are implemented as mobile vehicles equipped with suitable hardware and software for transmitting and receiving voice and data communications. MVCS **300** may include additional components not relevant to the present discussion. Mobile vehicle communication systems and telematics units are known in the art.

MVCU **320**, via telematics unit **325** and mobile handset **327**, sends to and receives radio transmissions from wireless carrier system **330**. Wireless carrier system **330** is implemented as any suitable system for transmitting a signal from MVCU **320** to communication network **350**. Land network **360** connects communication network **350** to call center **370**. In one embodiment, land network **360** is a public-switched telephone network (PSTN). In another embodiment, land network **360** is implemented as an Internet protocol (IP) network.

In an example and referring to **FIG. 1** above, MVCU **320** is implemented as MVCU **110** including in-vehicle mobile phone **134** implemented as a mobile handset coupled to telematics unit **120**, MVCU **310** is implemented as a mobile vehicle similar to MVCU **110** but not including in-vehicle mobile phone **134** implemented as a mobile handset coupled to telematics unit **120**, wireless carrier system **330** is implemented as wireless carrier system **140**, communication network **350** is implemented as communication network **142**, land network **360** is implemented as land network **144**, and call center **370** is implemented as call center **170**. In another example, mobile handset **327** is implemented as mobile handset **290** as described with reference to **FIG. 2**.

In operation, a user determines one of a plurality of compatible vehicles to associate with a mobile handset. In one embodiment, MVCU **310** is a primary vehicle (e.g. the user's primary vehicle) as determined by MVCU **310** having the same telematics unit identifier (TUI) as mobile handset **327**. In this embodiment, MVCU **320** is a secondary vehicle as determined by MVCU **320** not having the same telematics unit identifier (TUI) as mobile handset **327**. Examples of a secondary vehicle include a user's secondary vehicle, a rental vehicle, and the like.

The mobile handset is coupled to the telematics unit within the mobile vehicle. In one embodiment, mobile handset **327** is coupled to telematics unit **325**. A determination is made as to whether the telematics unit the mobile handset is coupled to is the primary vehicle or any secondary vehicle, such as, for example by comparing the telematics unit identifier (TUI) of the mobile handset to the telematics unit identifier (TUI) of the telematics unit within the mobile vehicle. In one embodiment, the determination determines mobile handset **327** is coupled to telematics unit **325** within secondary MVCU **320**. Calls are then routed to the telematics unit to which the mobile handset is coupled. In an example, calls are then routed to telematics unit **325** to which mobile handset **327** is coupled

In one embodiment, calls are sent to the telematics unit within the secondary mobile vehicle (called a "secondary telematics unit") when the mobile handset is coupled to the secondary telematics unit. In an example, calls are sent to secondary telematics unit **325** when mobile handset **327** is coupled to secondary telematics unit **325**. A determination is made as to whether the call is answered at the secondary telematics unit. If the call is not answered, the call is forwarded to the telematics unit within the primary mobile vehicle (call a "primary telematics unit"). In an example, if the call is not answered at secondary telematics unit **325**, the call is forwarded to primary telematics unit **315**. A determination is then made as to whether the call is answered at the primary telematics unit. If the call is not answered, the call is forwarded to voice mail. In one example, if the call is not answered at primary telematics unit **315**, the call is forwarded to voice mail.

FIG. 4 is a flow diagram of an embodiment of a method of managing mobile handset portability within a telematics equipped mobile vehicle. In **FIG. 4**, method **400** may utilize one or more systems detailed in **FIGS. 1 - 3**, above. The present invention can also take the form of a computer usable medium including a program for configuring an electronic module within a vehicle. The program stored in the computer usable medium includes computer program code for executing the method steps described in **FIG. 4**. In **FIG. 4**, method **400** begins at step **410**.

At step **420**, a primary telematics unit identifier (TUI) is assigned to a user account. In one embodiment, the user account is a subscription service. In another embodiment, the telematics unit identifier (TUI) is a mobile identification number. At step **430**, the primary telematics unit identifier (TUI) is assigned to a mobile handset. In one embodiment, the mobile handset is a digital handset.

At step **440**, the mobile handset is associated with a telematics unit operating within a mobile vehicle communication system. In one embodiment, the mobile handset is associated with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system. In another embodiment, associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system includes coupling the mobile handset to the telematics unit, communicating the assigned telematics unit identifier of the mobile handset to a service provider, and downloading user preferences from the service provider, the user preferences based on the user account associated with the communicated telematics unit identifier. In yet another embodiment, associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system additionally includes implementing the downloaded user preferences. In another embodiment, the user preferences are based on a mobile vehicle type. In still another embodiment, downloading user

preferences based on the user account includes determining the user preferences at the service provider, and receiving the user preferences from the service provider.

Examples of user preferences include a mirror position preference, a door lock behavior preference, a radio station preset selection preference, a climate setting preference, a button configuration preference, and a theft alarm setting preference.

In another embodiment, associating the mobile handset with any one of a plurality of telematics units operating within the mobile vehicle communication system includes coupling the mobile handset to the telematics unit, determining if the telematics unit coupled to the mobile handset is a primary telematics unit, determining if the telematics unit coupled to the mobile handset is a secondary telematics unit, and routing calls (detailed in **FIG. 5**, below) to the determined telematics unit. In this embodiment, the primary telematics unit includes the primary telematics unit identifier and the secondary telematics does not include the primary telematics unit identifier.

At step **450**, the associated telematics unit is operated. At step **470**, the method is terminated.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of an embodiment of a method of routing calls to a telematics unit within a mobile vehicle communication system. In **FIG. 5**, method **500** may utilize one or more systems detailed in **FIGS. 1 - 3**, above. The present invention can also take the form of a computer usable medium including a program for configuring an electronic module within a vehicle. The program stored in the computer usable medium includes computer program code for executing the method steps described in **FIG. 5**. In **FIG. 5**, method **500** begins at step **510**.

At step **520**, an incoming call to a telematics user identifier (TUI) account is received. At step **530**, a mobile handset coupled to a secondary telematics unit rings. In one embodiment, the call is sent to the secondary telematics unit when the mobile handset is coupled to the secondary telematics unit. In an example and referring to **FIG. 3**, the call is sent to secondary telematics unit **325** when mobile handset **327** is coupled to secondary telematics unit **325**.

At step **530**, the mobile handset coupled to the secondary telematics unit rings. At decision step **540**, a determination is made as to whether the call is answered at the secondary telematics unit. If the call is answered at the secondary telematics unit, method **500** advances to step **550**. If the call is not answered at the secondary telematics unit, method **500** advances to step **560**. In one embodiment, the call is forwarded to a primary telematics unit when the call is not answered.

At step **550**, the call is answered. In one embodiment, when the call is answered, voice communication is established. At step **560**, the primary telematics unit rings.

At decision step **570**, a determining is made as to whether the call is answered at the primary telematics unit. If the call is answered at the primary telematics unit, method **500** advances to step **580**. If the call is not answered at the primary telematics unit, method **500** advances to step **590**. In one embodiment, the call is forwarded to an answering system.

At step **580**, the call is answered. In one embodiment, when the call is answered, voice communication is established. At step **590**, the call is forwarded to an answering system, such as, for example voicemail. At step **595**, the method is terminated.

The above-described methods and implementation for managing mobile handset portability within a telematics equipped mobile vehicle are example methods and implementations. These methods and implementations illustrate one possible approach for managing mobile handset portability within a telematics equipped mobile vehicle. The actual implementation may vary from the method discussed. Moreover, various other improvements and modifications to this invention may occur to those skilled in the art, and those improvements and modifications will fall within the scope of this invention as set forth in the claims below.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive.